उर्वरक राजसहायता हेतु जाली बिल

1101. श्री राज मोहिन्दर सिंहः क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या सरकार को उर्वरक निर्माताओं द्वारा उर्वरक पर राजसहायता से संबंधित जाली बिल प्रस्तुत किए जाने के संबंध में शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो 1995-96, 1996-97 तथा 1997-98 के दौरान कितनी-कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं तथा चालू वर्ष में अब तक ऐसे कितने मामले सरकार के ध्यान में आए हैं; और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने ऐसे मामलों में मांगी गई राजसहायता की राशि का पता लगाया है, यदि हां, तो उपर्युक्त में से प्रत्येक वर्ष में कितनी-कितनी धनराशि के बिल पेश किए गए हैं?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० ए०के० पटेल): (क) से (ग) वर्ष 1995-96, 1996-97 तथा 1997-98 में चार शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई थीं जिनमें पी तथा के उर्वरकों के लिये रियायत का दावा करने में विभिन्न अनियमितताओं का आरोप लगाया गया था। चालू वर्ष के दौरान, निर्माताओं के विरुद्ध ऐसी 4 शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं। शिकायतों में निहित सब्सिडी की मात्रा के बारे में कोई विशिष्ट रूप से उल्लेख नहीं किया गया है।

6 शिकायतों की जांच-ड़ताल राज्य सरकार के परामर्श से की गई है और आरोप प्रमाणित नहीं हुए हैं। एक मामले में, राज्य सरकार ने निर्माता द्वारा अदा की गई धनराशि की वसूली करने के लिये कार्रवाई शुरू की है। शेष पांच मामलों की जांच की जा रही है।

EMRs to Foreign Drug Companies

1102. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are shortly giving Exclusive Marketing Rights (EMR) for some drugs to the foreign companies as per the commitment made to the World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) if so, the details, thereof and whether grant of this EMR would shoot up the prices of medicines, agro-chemical products; and

(c) if so, what sfeps are proposed to prevent the price hike so that, at least the life saving drugs are within every body's reach?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) As intimated by Ministry of Industry, no application for grant of Exclusive Marketing Rights (EMR) has so far been received in the Patent Office.

Relief to Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1103. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the communication that the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan, a Body of survivors of the World's worst Industrial Disaster of 1984, had reportedly addressed on the New Year Day (1999) to the US President, Bill Clinton, demanding justice to victims of the gas leak disaster and their families;

(b) if so, what is the progress made so far in providing relief and compensation for damage to these victims; and

(c) whetehr Government have taken up the matter with the US Goverrnment to ensure speedy relief and justice to these victims; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS: (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Union Carbide Corporation paid a sum of US Dollar 470 millions

to the Union of India as compensation in full settlement of all claims, rights and liabilities related to and arising out of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster. According to information sent by the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, a total compensation of approximately Rs. 996 crore has been disbursed upto 31.12.1998 after adjudicating 7,30,901 claims. In addition, a total outlay of Rs. 258 crores was approved for various rehabilitation schemes under the Action Plan prepared for Bhopal Gas Victims. This expenditure is to be shared between Central Govearnment and State Government in the ratio of 75:25. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that a sum of Rs. 202.18 crore has been spent as on 31.12.98 on these schemes. Out of this amount, Central Government has released approximately Rs. 166 crore.

(c) In view of the above, does not arise.

Flouting of Pollution Norms by Mine Owners

1104. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mine owners are flouting the pollution norms prescribed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests causing lot of pollution; and

(b) what is the number of mine owners who have been penalized during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The mine owners are required to obtain environmental clearances from the Government before starting any mining project. Environmental clearances are issued by the Government specifying certain conditions/standards to safeguard the environment from mining activities.

The approved projects are monitored for compliance of specified conditions/standards through six Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. In case of non-compliance/unsatisfactory compliance of stipulated conditions/standards, Government takes appropriate action against project proponents. Out of 294 mining projects approved by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, unsatisfactory compliance was reported in 33 projects as on 30.6.1998 and project proponents have been asked to take suitable mitigative measures for compliance of stipulated conditions. So far, no project proponent has been penalized.

Creation of Bio-Diversity Zone in AP

1105. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create Bio-Diversity Zone in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have surveyed potential sites along the Godavari and Krishna Valley in the State;

(c) if so, when were these surveys conducted; and

(d) what steps are proposed to actively develop Bio-Diversity Zone in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have been undertaking floristic and faunistic surveys in Andhra Pradesh along with some universities. The ZSI has undertaken 28 surveys covering 15 districts during 1995-99. The BSI has undertaken surveys in 12 districts during the last three decades. The reports of these surveys have been published in the form of district Floras/Faunas and research papers.